

A VIRTUAL-PRODUCT PRESENTATION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and methods for virtually presenting a product for purchase by a consumer. The product has one of the following characteristics: vibrations, a mass, a texture, a smell and a temperature. A memory stores a representation of a characteristic of the product. The representation is retrieved on demand from a shopper, and the characteristic reproduced from the retrieved representation for the benefit of the shopper. At the appropriate point — say, after the shopper's buying the product — the retrieval of the product for the shopper may be initiated. The storing of the characteristic representation may involve storing the representation in a database accessible over an internet. The apparatus may include a memory containing a representation of an approximation of a characteristic of the product for purchase, the characteristic from a set of characteristics including vibrations, a mass, a texture, a smell, and a temperature. The apparatus may also include a simulation sub-system communicatively coupled to the memory and corresponding to the characteristic. That is to say, the sub-system is from a set of simulation sub-systems including a vibratory sub-system for simulating vibrations, a mass-simulation sub-system for simulating mass characteristics, a textural sub-system for simulating a texture, an olfactory sub-system for simulating a smell and a temperature-simulation sub-system for simulating a temperature. Finally, the apparatus may also include a sales sub-system for indicating a desire to purchase the product.

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